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THE TIMES

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1986

(25p)

Labour attack 'distortion' in press reports

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Labour MPs have been urged to launch a new year offensive against what party strategists believe is a concerted Fleet Street campaign to torpedo their hopes of an election victory.

They have been advised to tackle political journalists responsible for reports that they believe either distort or misrepresent party policy or activities.

At the same time, front-bench spokesmen have been asked to step up their drive for favourable press coverage by pumping out plenty of speeches and making themselves readily available for comment on controversial issues.



Mr Neil Kinnoch, 'target of personal attacks'. Members of Labour's spending plans and alleged selection of far-left candidates for safe seats were part of orchestrated propaganda campaign involving the Downing Street press office and Conservative Central Office.

Mr Mandelson had singled out *The Sunday Times* as the "flagship" of anti-Labour stories, and other papers had followed its lead.

But, according to the MPs, he had counselled against such a course. Instead, they were urged personally to single out offending journalists and, with the aid of a quiet word, to make their displeasure felt.

Tomorrow Who he?

Who is this man and what is he doing? If you can answer this, and similar questions about the year gone by, you may be in line for a case of vintage Moët and Chandon champagne, worth £182, in our Prize Christmas Quiz.

Piggott pays in £950,000

A solicitor acting for Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, yesterday delivered bail security in the form of a banker's draft for £950,000 to the justices' clerk for West Suffolk.

Voyager heads for home

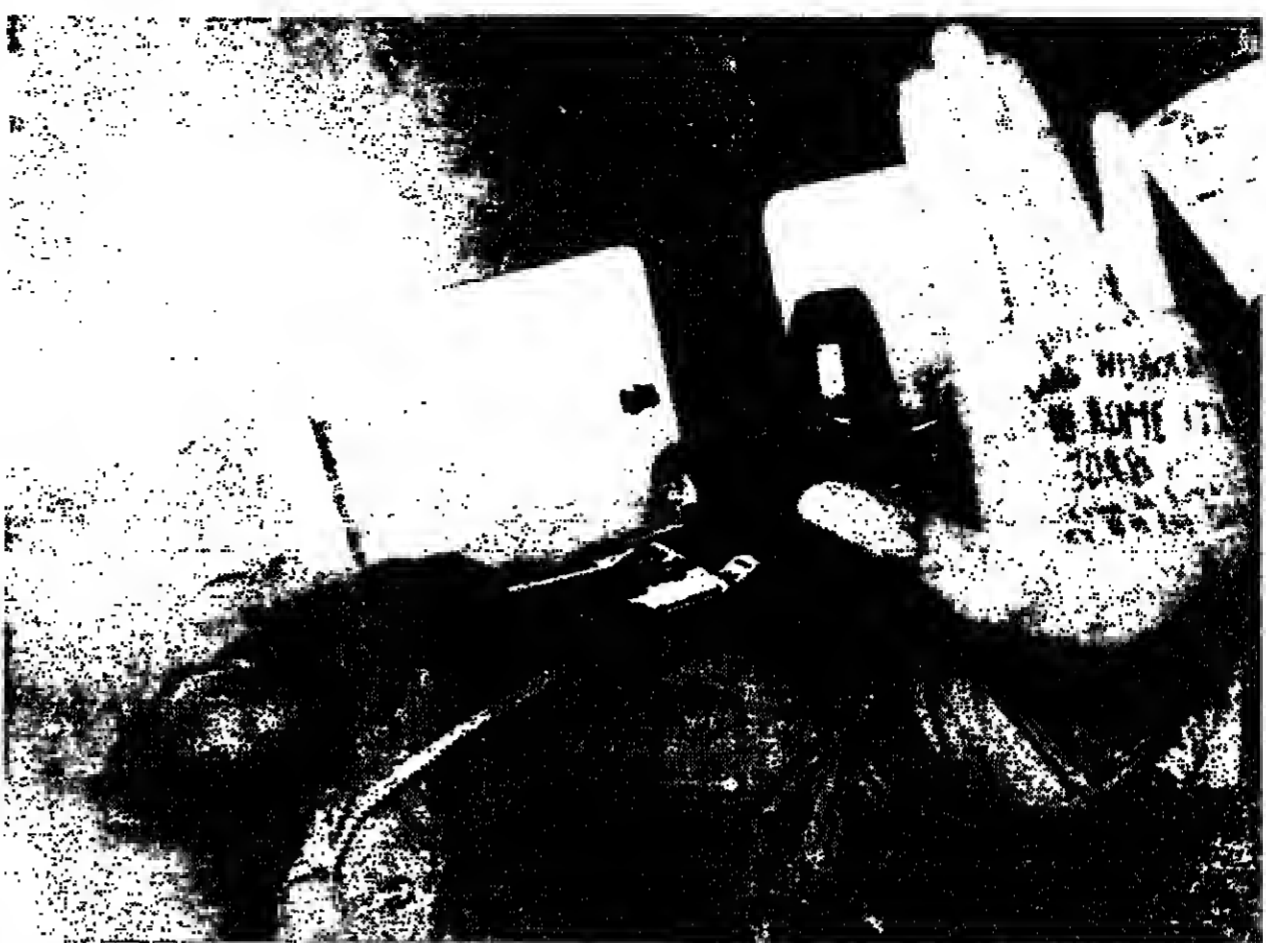
The two Voyager pilots, suffering from fatigue and facing headwinds for the first time, early yesterday flew their fuelled two-engine aircraft across the Caribbean and headed home on the last leg of their non-stop, round-the-world flight without refuelling.

DTI inquiry nears end

The investigation into possible leaks of market-sensitive information by civil servants could end by Christmas, but the Department of Trade and Industry declines to confirm or deny reports that a young woman is the source.

Iran claims British 'spy' confessed

British businessman, of "spying activities" and claimed he had confessed. "Cooper was a British subject spying for the interests of his country," said the envoy, who added that the 51-year-old Briton was a fluent Farsi speaker and had been a speech-writer in Iran under the late Shah.



Mr Mordechai Vanunu showing the message he wrote on his hand as he was taken to court in Jerusalem: "Vanunu was hijacked in Rome I.T.L. 30.9.86 2100. Came to Rome by BA fly 504."

Vanunu says hijack happened in Rome

Mr Mordechai Vanunu has again defied attempts to silence him and told the world that he was "hijacked in Rome" to be taken to Israel to stand trial for treason and espionage.

Politicians mourn 'irreplaceable' David Penhaligon

The Liberal Party was devastated yesterday by the death of Mr David Penhaligon, one of its few national figures, in a road accident in his native Cornwall.



David Penhaligon: Shrewd political strategist

Mr Penhaligon, aged 42, died in the accident about 6.45 am yesterday at Truck Fork on the A390 road in Cornwall. He was driving his Rover car from Truro towards St Austell for his regular Christmas

Concern at police bill for soccer

The Government is so concerned at the cost of policing football matches in the fight against hooliganism that it has asked the Metropolitan Police to provide a detailed bill.

It was a view to be echoed throughout the day in a series of tributes from Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, other political leaders, and MPs from the West Country, all of whom regarded him as a friend.

Home Office officials concede that the actual cost is "several times that amount" because of the increasing need to have officers deployed away from the ground.

Meningitis blamed for double death

Two young children from Northamptonshire have died simultaneously from a rare complication of meningitis. Nicola, aged 23 months, and James Smith, aged two, were found dead in their beds by their mother, Mrs Sue Smith, on Sunday morning, in their home in Wellingborough.

The complication, known as Waterhouse-Friederichsen, although rare, is often the contributory cause of death in meningitis cases, said Dr James Stuart, specialist in community medicine, who is administering the meningitis screening programme in Stonehouse Gloucestershire.

Portfolio Gold

There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition as there was no winner yesterday.

TIMES BUSINESS

Oil prices up

Despite a rise in crude oil prices, motorists are likely to escape having to pay more for petrol for some weeks Page 17

TIMES SPORT

Title sacrifice

Lloyd Honeyghan, Britain's world welterweight champion, has surrendered one of his three world titles rather than meet the challenge of a white South African Page 28

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Now read MY MEMOIRS IN THE HORSE AND HOUND.

The Queen to end side-saddle parade

For the past 18 years the Queen has ridden her black mare, Burmese, at the Trooping of the Colour in June. Instead of her annual display of dignified equestrian expertise, she will drive to and from Horse Guards as a passenger in a carriage, and will inspect her annual birthday parade from the comfort of the coach.

Burmese, who was presented to the Queen by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the age of seven, is now 24. The Queen is 61. But Miss Sylvia Stanier, the horsewoman who acts as royal stand-in at trooping of the colour rehearsals, estimated yesterday that Burmese was by human standards the equivalent of 90 years old.

"I imagine that the powers that be, taking into consideration that horses do not normally live to the age of 24, are rather wary of the fact that they are putting the Queen on a horse which is more than an old age pensioner," Miss Stanier said.

Miss Stanier said that Burmese was "a rare animal in that she always wants to be out in front, which is unusual. In all the years that she has done the trooping, she has only caused me problems if she is

Reagan rules out pardons for aides

President Reagan yesterday ruled out a presidential pardon for Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North and Admiral John Poindexter to enable them to tell the full story of the Iran-Contra scandal.

But many senior members of Congress of both parties are becoming increasingly convinced that the only way to uncover the full story of the scandal will eventually be to grant limited immunity.

Mr James Wright, the incoming Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, called for a presidential pardon as "the ultimate act of leadership, the ultimate immunity". But a senior White House official rejected the idea.

Many congressmen believe a pardon now would imply that Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North were guilty of a crime. There is also a widespread feeling on Capitol Hill that with the inquiry still in its early stages it would be wrong to interfere with the possibility of prosecutions if serious crimes were uncovered.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, did not totally rule out a future presidential pardon. "The President is not planning a pardon for them, but of course as the Chief Executive one always retains the right for executive clemency," he said.

Some senior Republicans and Democrats criticized Mr Wright's call as premature at this stage of the congressional investigation. But Senator Warren Rudman, the senior Republican on the Senate select committee investigating the scandal, said prolonged national anguish would not be justified by "the possible imprisonment for a short period of a few people for things they thought they were doing right".

President Reagan's popularity is continuing to plummet and there are increasingly persistent, frank questions about his forgetfulness and whether he is really up to the rigours of the job. An opinion poll among residents of Iowa showed that one in four thought he should resign. Nearly one in five wanted him impeached. Three-quarters of those questioned believed the Administration was trying to cover up the scandal.

Mr Reagan appeared tense yesterday when he signed a National Day of Prayer Proclamation.

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A windscreen containing an almost invisible car aerial.



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Lord Devlin opposed to ending juror challenge

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Devlin, the former law lord, has come out against the Government's proposal to abolish the defence right of challenge to jurors.

He said that he was against "any diminution of the right of peremptory challenge" unless, at the same time, action was taken to develop the procedure of challenge "for cause" that is, with reason.

"Before we interfere with peremptory challenge we should see if there can be a proper procedure for challenge for cause."

He was also critical of the Government's intention to end the defence right of challenge while leaving intact the crown's right to ask jurors to "stand by" if always said there must be an equal deal for both. If the peremptory challenge is removed, the crown must give up the right to stand by.

Instead, he said, there must be a proper system of challenge for cause for both sides.

The former law lord's comments come as the Government is preparing for a tough fight in Parliament over its proposals, contained in the Criminal Justice Bill.

Lord Devlin said that he would not favour such an expansion of challenge for cause that one would "go the way of the American system".

In the United States, jurors were endlessly challenged over a period of days or even weeks before a trial, and the whole procedure had become a sort of "preliminary contest", he said.

The British challenge for cause had become discredited in the last century and fallen into disuse. But it was worth considering whether through legislation or "by ascertaining the attitude of judges" the procedure could be reformed, Lord Devlin said.

"But if you merely put forward a proposal for ending peremptory challenge without seeing if anything can be done about challenge for cause I do not support it."

The comments by Lord Devlin, for long a passionate supporter of the jury system,

are certain to fuel the mounting debate.

The Law Society and the Criminal Bar Association, as well as civil libertarians, are against the proposal and Mr David Cocks, QC, chairman of the Bar association, has given a warning that abolition of the defence right of challenge "may well be contrary to our larger obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights".

Such abolition, he said, would also "create the appearance and the reality of a massive imbalance in the system".

Lord Devlin made a forceful submission, to the Roskill committee on fraud trials, in favour of keeping jurors in complex fraud cases, and the Government has for the present adopted that view.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, has rejected the criticisms made by the Bar association and said that the present system of peremptory challenge "completely distorts the composition of the jury".

He pointed out that the crown use of "stand by" was to be confined, by published guidelines, to strictly limited categories of cases.

The present system forced defence lawyers to manipulate a right in a way calculated to secure their client's acquittal, and it was "embarrassing and offensive" to jurors, who gave up their time to do jury service only to be stood down without reason.

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Lord Devlin, who wants a wider inquiry into system

£1m is left to school by old boy

A public school has received a £1 million Christmas windfall in the will of a former pupil.

Mr Norman Sharpe, a bachelor who died last July, aged 79, rarely visited his old school, Giggleswick, near Settle, North Yorkshire, where he was a day boy between 1921 and 1925. But he retained a deep affection for the school, which has a royal charter dating from the 1500s.

Mr Sharpe, OBE, and holder of the American Legion of Honour for wartime services, was the former chairman and managing director of a greetings card and fine art business in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The family business, which was established by his grandfather, was taken over recently by Hallmark of the United States.

Mr Peter Hobson, headmaster of the £5,000-a-year school, which has about 400 boys and girls aged eight to 18, said yesterday that the bequest was "totally unexpected".

He added: "Everyone here is deeply grateful to him for this marvellous demonstration of faith in his old school and his belief in independent education."

He said he thought the legacy would be used for investment to further guarantee the school's long-term security.

"We shall then consider other possible benefits for present and future generations of boys and girls."

"Giggleswick can now face the future with even greater confidence. We are now in an even stronger position to make a substantial contribution to the future prosperity of independent education in the north of England."

Mr Sharpe left more than £2 million, about half his fortune going to the school. Other beneficiaries will include his family, and certain former employees of his old company.

He is survived by a brother, Donald, who lives in retirement near Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and has no children.

Mr Edward Green, aged 71, a lifelong business friend of Mr Sharpe and executor of his estate, said: "He was a most able businessman and totally dedicated to his old school. But he always had the interests of his workers at heart."

"Mr Sharpe lived very quietly as a bachelor. It's typical of him to remember his old school."

Other wills, page 14

Bomber in photo is jailed

James Hazell, whose photograph appeared in national newspapers carrying a petrol bomb during riots in Handsworth, Birmingham, was yesterday jailed for five years at the city's crown court.

Hazell later threw the bomb into a building supplies shop on the second day of riots last year, after a visit to the area by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said Hazell was identified from the photograph by police and a woman who knew him but he went into hiding in London for a few days before giving himself up.

When it came to his trial, Hazell had changed his appearance from when the photograph was taken. Instead of jeans and a floppy cap he wore spectacles, a smart suit and a bow tie.

One jury was unable to reach a verdict at a trial in September, but a second jury found him guilty last Friday on the charge of arson.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for Hazell, said his client was given the petrol bomb by another man and had thrown it at the shop rather than at police.

Judge Potter told Hazell: "You committed a spectacular act of arson in the front and full view of a riotous mob in a manner calculated to encourage that mob to further lawless violence."

Rinka races round on a spending spree for toys



Rinka Mordecai, aged nine, from north London, speeds her shopping trolley round Selfridges yesterday helping to choose £6,000 of toys for Capital Radio's Christmas appeal. The money came from a concert by Status Quo and a £1,000 donation from the store (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Six bailed after death at match

Mr Barry Adamson, chairman of Scarborough Football Club, who collapsed after an incident during a match at the club, died of a heart attack, an inquest was told yesterday.

Six football supporters from the Morecambe and Lancaster areas were remanded on bail by magistrates at Scarborough accused of an offence arising out of violence at the match on Saturday.

All six, aged between 17 and 24, were accused of unlawfully fighting and making an affray to the terror and disturbance of others at the Athletic ground, Scarborough, during the FA Trophy match between Scarborough and Morecambe.

Mr Geoff Hesellon, chairman of the magistrates, said all would be remanded on bail until January 19 on sureties of between £250 and £500.

Mr Michael Oakley, the Scarborough coroner, yesterday opened and adjourned the inquest on Mr Adamson, who was aged 47.

Evidence was given in a written statement by his wife, Elizabeth, who identified the body at Scarborough hospital after violence at the ground on Saturday. She said her husband had been in good health.

PC Alan Fern, the coroner's officer, said a post-mortem examination carried out by Dr Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, had given the cause of death as a heart attack.

Dr Green had not completed his report but the cause of death would not be changed.

The coroner adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed because further inquiries had still to be made into the incident.

Mass trespass Evictions to be speeded up

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Comments received on the Lord Chancellor's consultation paper on summary proceedings for the possession of land.

There was general agreement about the reduction from five to two days in respect of open land but there was concern about such a change in the case of residential premises. It was felt there would be difficulty in obtaining legal advice in such a short period.

Two other changes include clarification of provisions for serving applications on defendants on open land. It will be possible to serve them by fixing envelopes containing the summons to stakes at conspicuous points on the land. And masters and district registrars will be able to hear applications to the High Court instead of judges.

The changes will come into force on January 12. Similar changes are to be made in proceedings in the county courts.

At the time of the convey, trespass was not a criminal offence. Concerted action to identify potential trespassers in travelling groups so that preventive legal moves can be made has also been recommended in advice to farmers and landowners by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

'Frozen' house prices bring hope to buyers

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Home-seekers are being urged to enter the housing market now while prices are "frozen countrywide".

The suggestion comes in the latest survey, published today, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which says that with prices levelling out it is a good time to buy, before the expected increases next spring.

The survey for the quarter ending on November 30 shows that nearly 60 per cent of the 190 estate agents in England and Wales taking part reported that prices had not moved during the three-month period, and 36 per cent saw a rise of only 2 per cent.

State prices have also been recorded in the South-west, where a special survey indicates that there are more houses for sale and fewer buyers than elsewhere in the country. Country houses, particularly cottages and farm houses, are, nevertheless, popular auction items.

Glut of large turkeys brings down prices

The price of large fresh turkeys plummeted at wholesale markets around Britain yesterday, with some traders offering two birds for the price of one to clear stocks.

During early trading the price of large fresh birds fell from 70p a pound to 40p, but many dealers refused to buy knowing there was no outlet.

Last year there was a shortage of fresh turkeys and prices were very high, according to Mr Alan Dan, marketing director of Dewhurst's, Britain's largest high street hutchers chain.

"This year farmers tried to cash in again but there are too many big birds on the market, from 16lb to 22lb and over," he said.

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union said that farmers had increased production by about 12 per cent this year.

The problem has been caused by overproduction and the mild weather, which meant the turkeys put on weight faster than usual. Birds weighing between 10 and 14lb, the most popular size, are still available, Mr Dan said.

Last year, fresh birds were selling for £1 and more a pound. Yesterday birds weighing between 7.5 and 9.0 lb a pound, while heavier birds were 40p, when a buyer could be found.

About 11 million birds are bought every Christmas, 2.5 million of them fresh farm birds.

Farmers unable to sell their birds are expected to freeze them and release them into the trade during next year, or portion them.

"Whatever they do, there is no way these producers will get their production costs back," Mr Dan said.

Supplies of frozen birds are not affected, although prices, at 49p a pound, are below last year's.

The Prime Minister received her traditional Christmas turkey yesterday. The 32lb bird was presented to her at Downing Street by Colonel Ted Phillips, chairman of Sun Valley Farms, of Hereford, on behalf of the British Poultry Federation.

Mrs Thatcher seemed surprised at the size of the bird, which will take more than 10 hours to cook. She said that she would have to get up very early to get it cooked in time.

More seek holiday sunshine

More people are heading for the sun this Christmas than ever before, tour operators said yesterday.

Thomas Holidays said this Christmas will be its busiest with 386 charter and scheduled flights carrying 95,000 holidaymakers abroad.

"There must be a greater desire than ever before to get away from it during the holiday," the company said.

Intasun Holidays reported sales 50 per cent up including winter sun destinations.

But for most workers and office staff yesterday was a normal day. The number of commuters using trains across the country was only slightly less than usual.

Tubes in London carried about 10 per cent fewer commuters. But British Rail, Southern Region, said rush hour trains were almost as full as usual yesterday and the same story was repeated by spokesmen for other regions.

Shell and ICI said that most staff were working until Christmas Eve and the Institute of Directors said most big companies seemed to be doing likewise.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Every Liberal MP has fought his way into the House of Commons by his own personal efforts. There is no such thing as a safe Liberal seat. So there is a higher proportion of distinctive, even quirky, personalities among the Liberals than in any other parliamentary party.

Nobody represented this tendency more strongly than David Penhaligon. He was above all, and in the best sense of the word, a character. This was evident, in the most obvious but least important sense, the moment he opened his mouth. His strong Cornish accent marked him as a politician with such deep roots in his region that he was immune to the homogenizing pressures of Westminster.

But there are quite a number of essentially, if not quite so emphatically, regional politicians in the House of Commons. It was two other qualities that made Penhaligon unique.

I have known no other parliamentarian use humour so regularly as an effective political instrument. Sometimes this became a trap as well as a strength. Sometimes it obscured the seriousness of his purpose. He was frequently extremely funny, but he was much more than a funny man who had strayed into politics.

Humour that became habit

Because he clowning so much, and so successfully, he could be mistaken for a clown. But that was a gross misunderstanding. Time and time again he employed humour as a delicate weapon to achieve serious ends. It was a rhetorical device, which worked so well that it became a habit.

It was a habit that he indulged too much. I think he appreciated when he became the Liberal economic spokesman that this is not a subject which most British people regard as appropriate for laughter. It is not known in this country as the dismal science for nothing. Yet the inap of wit kept on escaping from his control.

This damaged his standing in some quarters. He was not at his best in the Commons. But his humour often enabled him to be a remarkably effective debater on other occasions.

It also contributed to his other great quality, as a link between high politics and the general public. In the age of the career politician, he sounded the quaintest of ordinary man. As with anyone who manages to convey the impression of being outstandingly ordinary, he was not. There was art in his simplicity. But it was a considerable political attribute.

It is in this sense that I believe he is a loss to British politics as well as to his party. Although he was a serious politician, I doubt if he was a particularly deep one. Although he was mentioned from time to time as a possible successor to David Steel if he should give up the Liberal leadership after the next election, I question if Penhaligon would have been chosen and even more if he would have been more comfortable in the role.

Arsonists hit Welsh cottage

A holiday cottage on a hillside near Conwy, Gwynedd, was almost destroyed yesterday in a fire, which had the hallmarks of an attack by Welsh extremists. There have been nearly 200 similar incidents since 1979.

The cottage is owned by Mr John Quallington and his wife, Rosaleen, of Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. They bought it 20 years ago and renovated it from a near ruin.

Home-made double glazing was blamed yesterday for the death of a woman aged 21, poisoned by carbon monoxide in the bedroom of her home in Crown Terrace, Belper, Derbyshire.

Miss Shelley Johnson had left a gas fire on and the door closed. Police said polythene had been tacked across the window, preventing ventilation.

Fair opens for the last time

The Christmas fair on the old cattle market in Norwich city centre, a tradition going back more than 150 years, opened yesterday for the last time.

A £60 million shopping complex is to be built there. Work will begin next year after a £500,000 archaeological dig on the site, which is alongside the city's Norman castle.

High Court judge divorced

The wife of Mr Justice Harman, a London High Court judge, was granted divorce yesterday in the court room opposite the one where he usually sits.

Sir Jeremiah Harman, aged 56, did not contest the proceedings.

Man survives train crash

Russell Jordan, aged 20, received head and knee injuries when he was hit by a Derby to Nottingham train yesterday while walking home to Norman Street, Cotnamby, Derbyshire, from a night club.

Farming surpluses: 2

Foresters and bird lovers square up for fight

In the second of three articles John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, looks at the dispute about large-scale afforestation.

The most important wildlife habitats in Europe and home to species found nowhere else.

The numbers of birds, notably greenshanks, golden plovers and dunlins, will be reduced and further threatened by predators living among the trees, they say.

The foresters reply that between them they manage 56,325 hectares out of a total of 192,000 - about 29 per cent - and that only 32,530 hectares are already planted or scheduled.

They also claim "there can be no doubt" that afforestation will increase the number of birds and that there are, for example, many more golden eagles since the plantations came to Scotland.

Again, they ask, how can the environmentalists in one breath claim that afforestation destroys wildlife and in the next assert that the present inhabitants are under threat from invading species that choose to make the woods their home.

The foresters concede that many of the early post-war plantations, comprising regimented ranks of a single species, were environmentally unattractive. They are now attempting to undo some of the damage by planting different species in gaps created by windblow and falling.

They also point out that all afforestation plans have to be approved by the Forestry Commission and the Nature

Conservancy Council and that they must be discussed with other conservation bodies, local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Such arguments cut little ice with the conservationists who are convinced that most of upland Britain and indeed, if farming becomes uneconomic, parts of lowland Britain are in danger of being covered in huge monotonous blankets of evergreens.

Most of the environmental groups, including the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Ramblers' Association, have demanded planning controls on forestry. This is something which successive governments have so far resisted, although they are now part of Labour Party policy.

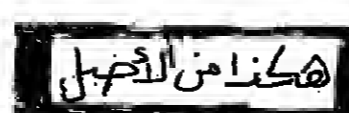
Conservationist objections have recently been intensified by the knowledge that a number of wealthy individuals, "showbiz stars" among them, have invested in forestry as a means of tax avoidance.

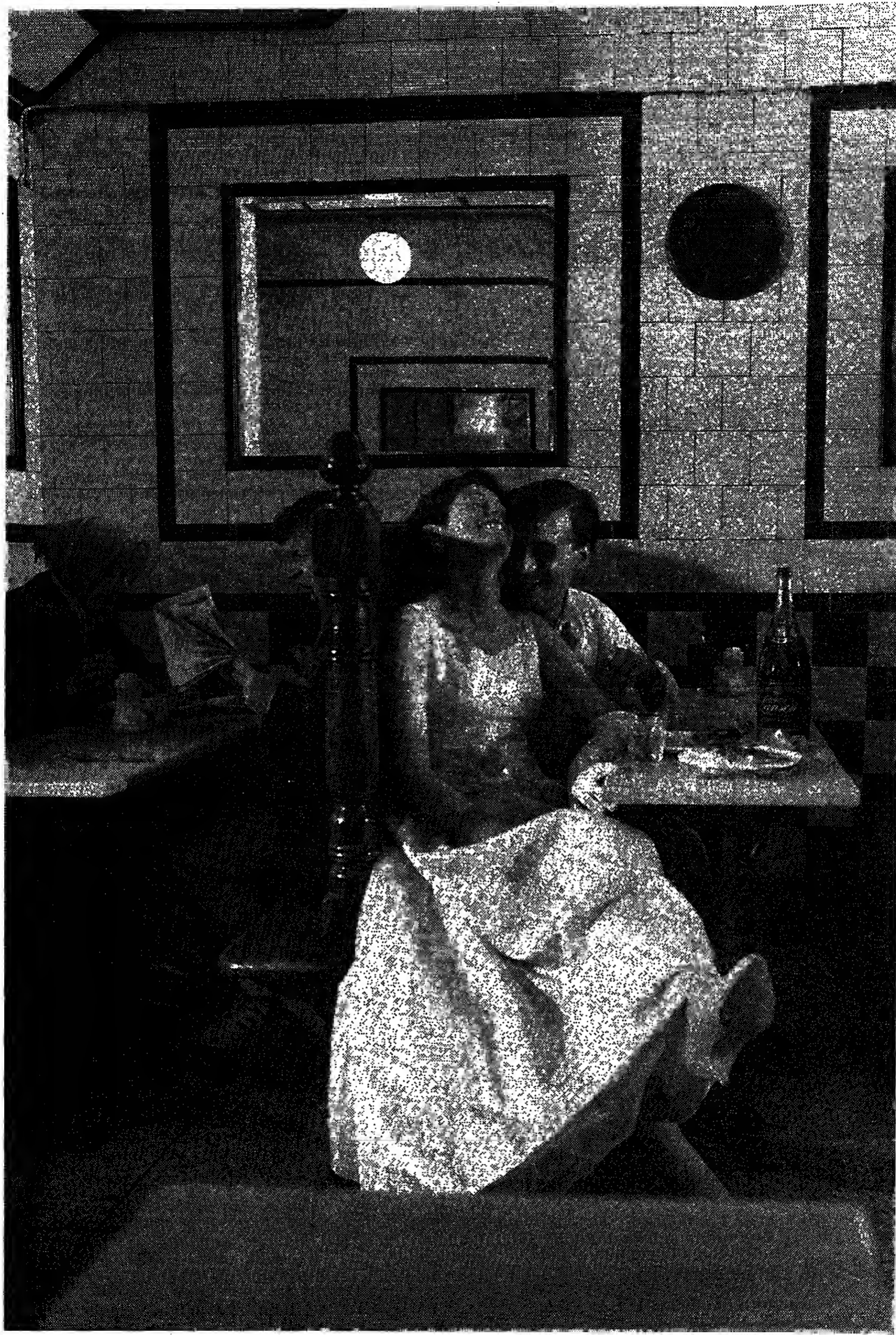
Under the present rules they are able to set off net expenditure against income from other sources, and are not subsequently liable to pay tax if and when they sell up.

Leaders of the forest industry see objections to this as evidence that the conservationist movement has been infiltrated by politically motivated people whose main concern is to attack the rich.

Mr Brian Howell, of Fountain Forestry, said: "Their attitude is totally irresponsible. A very successful and important industry is being damaged by irresponsible comments, and we resent it very much."

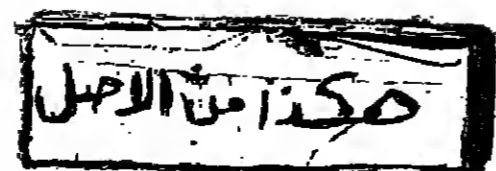
Tomorrow: Are more trees the answer?





Why not?

Lawson



WORLD SUMMARY

Briton freed in 'goodwill' gesture

South African-backed rebels in Mozambique yesterday released eight foreign hostages, including a Briton, as a gesture of "goodwill" for Christmas (Nicholas Beeson writes).

Libya attack in Chad

N'djamena (AP) - Libyan aircraft, artillery and tanks yesterday launched a fierce attack, with the use of napalm and toxic gas shells, on loyalist positions in the Tibesti Mountains of northern Chad.

Border redrawn 100 die in Iraqi raid

The Hague (AP) - The World Court yesterday divided up 1,200 square miles of disputed territory claimed by both Burkina Faso and Mali which drew the West African nations into a brief border war a year ago.

Bokassa trial dispute

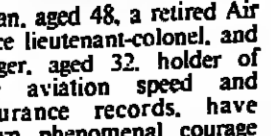
Bangui (AP) - The judge in the trial of former Emperor Bokassa yesterday denied a defence request for a week's recess, saying that little progress had been made and that the court could not afford to waste more time.

Bilingual strikers too noisy

Ottawa - The Government of Quebec has resumed laying charges against merchants who display signs not composed exclusively in French, the province's official language (John Best writes).

Voyager pilots join heroes of aviation

As the experimental aircraft Voyager circles the globe non-stop without refuelling, Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, its pilots, are being compared with aviation heroes such as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart.



Rutan, aged 48, a retired Air Force lieutenant-colonel, and Yeager, aged 32, holder of nine aviation speed and endurance records, have shown phenomenal courage during the past nine days in the unique, hand-built aircraft.

Aftermath of mass rallies for democracy in Shanghai streets



People climbing trees to obtain a better view of the demonstrations calling for democracy and press freedom in Shanghai's People's Square on Sunday.

Peking clamps down on protest

Shanghai (Reuters) - Chinese authorities placed a clamp on student protests yesterday, dispersing 200 police around the site of Sunday's mass demonstration and warning that official permission would be needed for further rallies.

Paris transport crippled as Metro drivers join rail and sea strike

Paris (AP) - Most Paris commuter railway operators walked out yesterday, joining a strike by rail and maritime workers that has crippled transport throughout the country.

Sakharov freedom sets seal on Gorbachov reform

When Dr Andrei Sakharov sets foot in Moscow this morning, for the first time since his banishment in January it will be the culmination of a dramatic series of recent events which have set the symbolic seal on the Gorbachov era and distanced it formally from the legacy left by Leonid Brezhnev.

'Fat One' gives £2.5m to Australia

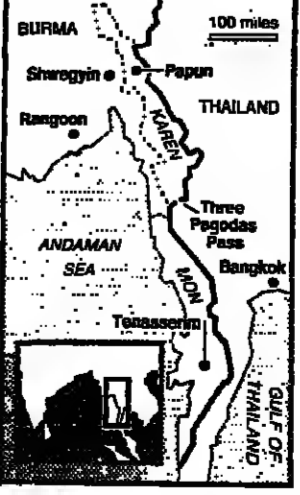
Madrid - "The Fat One" yesterday favoured a long-term Spanish emigrant to Australia, Señor José Nuñez Monturfo, to the tune of 475 million pesetas (nearly £2.5 million) as Spain's annual Christmas lottery, the biggest in the world, showered £389 million on lucky winners.

Swaziland keeps Botha waiting in raid protest

Mr R F "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, was kept waiting in an ante-room for 30 minutes yesterday after arriving in Mbabane, the Swaziland capital, for talks with Mr Sotha Dlamini, its Prime Minister.

Karens flee from Burmese repression

Thousands of Karen people in Burma are on the move towards the border with Thailand to escape a campaign of repression by Burmese Government forces, according to Western relief workers and Thai intelligence sources on the border.



The Burmese Army was complaining that it had neither the manpower nor weapons to sustain a campaign against the rebels. They also found indecision and inertia more marked than in the past in official circles because of the continuing uncertainty about Burma's political future.

THE ARTS

Magic out of the photocopier

GALLERIES
John Russell Taylor
seeks out some shows
providing reasonable
entertainment as well
as edification

his ability to make us see things exactly as he sees them. Whether it is a painting or a drawing or a print or a photograph or a collage of many photographs...

since not all jolly anthropomorphic cats from the first half of the century are actually by him. (Probably all the frantic, garishly aureoled cats are, since to the best of my knowledge Wain was the only artist of his kind to go mad on paper as well as in life.)

subjects look romantic and monumental was quite unmatched. The show of his watercolours and etchings at the Building Centre until January 17 covers his whole career...

A more immediate approach to the recording of architecture is exemplified by Istanbul. Gateway to Splendour, at the Zamana Gallery until January 18. Described as "A Journey through Turkish Architecture"...

you could hardly do so more cheerfully than at Pompeii and Herculaneum (Weinreb Architectural Gallery, 36 Store Street, until January 23). The subject is not so much the fall of empires as the way later generations reacted to what remained...

subjects of these engravings in situ, and colour them accordingly, though with due regard to the tastes of the engravers' time as well as those of the Pompeians themselves. The result is no doubt historically questionable...

Lots of people have thought they invented the strip cartoon - even Gerald Brockhurst. It seems - but we might equally well find its origins on the walls of Pompeii. I doubt whether Reg Parlett ever considered that when producing, more than 60 years ago, his first strips for comics like Funny Wonder and Merry and Bright...

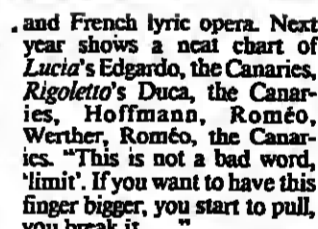


Hilary Finch

Still going well up to pitch

Hilary Finch meets the tenor Alfredo Kraus (right) who tonight at Covent Garden returns to the role of Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor in which he made his Royal Opera debut more than a quarter of a century ago

Such is the crescendo of expectation which leads to Edgardo's suicide in Lucia di Lammermoor that the work was, until the middle of the 19th century, regarded as a tenor rather than a soprano opera. In fact the very first Edgardo, Glibert Duprez, suggested breaking up the repeat of the cabaletta with temperature-raising interventions from the solo cello...



Alfredo Kraus

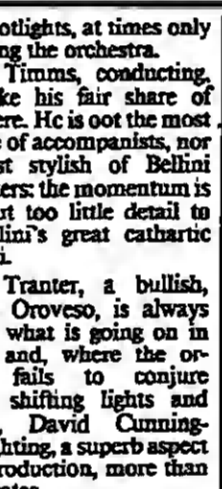
Donizetti's placing of each word within the melodic line - never a second wasted, not one part of the voice left to chance. The perfectionism of the composer matches that of the performer...

"We are working with something we don't touch, we don't see, even we don't hear. All we need to do is know my voice: to use my imagination to work with the sensations, with their immediate language. If you have this quality, this other sense, to understand what is the voice, that's fine - but nobody can give it to you."

DANCE

The Nutcracker Covent Garden
surprisingly unmusical. In the Snowflakes Waltz he was able to follow Ivanov's floor patterns which still exist in notation form; but, although the patterns may be ravishing, it is impossible to see them from the stalls because of the lack of a raked stage...

Judith Cruickshank
Entertainments appear on page 15



Hilary Finch



Hilary Finch

OPERA

Norma Grand, Leeds
The bad news is that Opera North has chosen a Norma who simply does not have what Bellini takes. Monica Pick-Hieronimi, making her company debut, has, I suspect, been working too much and too heavily at Verdi and Puccini to mould her voice to Bellini's bel canto.

THEATRE

Fiddler on the Roof Royal, Glasgow
drawn into a new world that brings both progress and persecution. McCue makes a personable Teyve, full-bodied both vocally and physically, holding the stage with affection and good-humouredly giving way to his daughters as they challenge the age-old traditional values that are the stronghold of a community threatened by an external change and evolution.

CONCERTS

Alfred Shnittke Almeida
Following his huge and rowdy First Symphony, smaller works by Alfred Shnittke trailed into the air at the Almeida, making noises hardly less rude. His First Quartet, 44 years old, dates back to a time when he was still able to exist creatively as a kind of fine-nerved, atonal Shostakovich, before the tensions in that persona had sprung open.

CONCERTS

Northern Saxophone Quartet Purcell Room
Hearing an entire concert of music for saxophone quartet makes one realize just why comparatively little decent literature for the combination exists. Unlike the instruments of a string quartet, the individuals of the family differ only in respect of their range of pitches. Hence, unless the music is particularly well crafted, or the performances are especially sparkling, an element of dullness is liable to creep into proceedings.

CONCERTS

Shakespeare

works. Quasi una sonata, dating from 1968, was probably the best known piece on the programme, but the performance by Mark Lubotsky and Peter Frankl made one know it anew, bringing out not only the fury and strength of its ironies and disconnections but also the fastidious care with which they are composed. It is one measure of Shnittke's achievement that his music can elicit and justify performances of this quality.

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CONCERTS

Battling with the clichés

North and South (Central) is produced by the man who orchestrated the opening and closing extravaganzas of the Los Angeles Olympics. And it shows. Last night was the final episode in this athletic footnote to the American Civil War - a drama which pays homage to Gone With the Wind in a manner that is as flatulent as it is indigestible.

TELEVISION

Given the story - a story, according to the Press hand-out, of "murder, rape, abortion and slave-abuse" - it is all the more extraordinary that one should have watched it in complete somnolence. Judging from the Press hand-out, the stars experienced similar difficulty in keeping awake.

Certainly the script he tampered with needed an electric cattle-prod to make it badge. Written for television by no fewer than four people, it had few lines longer than ten words and a devotion to cliché that can only be described as arrhythmic.

Three days before Christmas the BBC served us with their worst drama of the year. Apart from singling out the writer, Barry Davis, it would only be invidious to mention anyone involved in The Oldest Goose in the Business (BBC2).

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CONCERTS

Shakespeare

an arrested yo drive on print rebels

David Watts, Tokyo
His own due to a tough stance by the Ministry of Justice, police have recently been putting additional pressure on the files while at the same time proposing softer administrative response from the Ministry of State.

Shops hit in German arson wave

Arson wave
The police are looking for a suspect in the arson wave which has hit shops in Germany.

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Last gasp of the big spenders

A year ago King Coal was deposited in many parts of the country as the pit closure programme got under way. But what was happening to the miners? Brian James went to a town where huge redundancy payments have brought bizarre consequences — and a bonanza of misery — for the newly-rich

The coal miners of Garw knew for certain that their lives were about to be changed on the day they stepped, blinking, from the pit to be surrounded by men with briefcases who pursued them into the showers, waving contracts for life insurance and unit trusts.

That was a year ago and almost every day since then the Welshmen have had more examples of what it means to come into money. They stand in the miners' welfare and talk about managed trusts; they go home to be nagged by their wives about micro-waves, fitted kitchens and double glazing.

Men up to the age of 49 got £2,000 for every year of pit service; men aged 50 and over got a lump sum and a part pension. The Government has spent £1 billion on the scheme, and for the 200 men of the Garw valley villages, individual payments of £35,000 were not unique, and around £20,000 could be counted an average. So roughly £4 million in spendable income suddenly flowed into a valley where, during the strike a year before, food parcels and soup kitchens had kept the children fed.

pers. But like the "healthy" red cheeks of a man dying from lung disease, such signs mislead. The deluge of money into the Garw had effects that were banal and bizarre; and there are deep and corrosive problems out yet even faced.

Keith Hughes, wears several hats, running his own estate agency, managing a building society, and being secretary of the valley chamber of commerce. It was he who described the scene at the pithead baths: "Like flies around a honeypot, insurance salesmen, investment advisors, just came a-running. Even respect-

able banks had cars covered with banners parked across the gates. "That was the start of it. Blokes could see the world was after their money. But the social pressures have been worse. Chaps were afraid to go home because of the nagging; it was all about keeping up with the Joneses... and the Morgans... and the Griffiths. A lot of money went quickly on enjoying themselves. This little office also put out £2,000 in travellers' cheques for trips to Spao and Majorca in one week. And why not?"

Not a day too soon, according to Trevor Stoneham, the ex-miner who runs the Blaengarw Hotel, social centre of this grey huddle of houses. "Disillusion has already set in. A year ago they were flush with money. Men who'd over handled more than a £30,000 Christmas bonus now had £30,000 to play with, so it was doubles instead of punts. Bound to be. And the buying — some of the talk in here would turo yoo grey. Dai gets one better. You can do that for a bit if you are going to get another job.



'A few went potty, gave their daughters weddings fit for a princess'

KEITH HUGHES



Mine host Trevor Stoneham (standing, centre) was a miner himself — now he runs the Blaengarw Hotel, meeting place for the community

Practically one of them has. There's about 40 go by bus to other pits... some have to leave at 4am. Other get the bus at 11am and don't get back until 11 at night. That's no life. Of my 150 regulars who worked the Garw, I don't suppose more than 10 have got jobs down in the town, Bridgend. "In two or three years, the way some of them are going, the money will be gone. What then?"

Another Garw businessman sees the crisis coming within weeks, not years. "By February, for most of them, the dole money ends. Then it is so supplementary benefit. They hope! They've got the idea that so long as they have a penny less than the £3,000 upper limit they can claim benefit. That's why they've been spending their capital. They would not be told that the Inspector can chuck 'em out of his office when he hears how they have spent their money... new cars and all that."

Outside the Welsh ex-serviceman's clog a man called Gwyn speaks: "This used to be a man's village. Now the women have bloody taken over. Some of us get in bere drinking, but we don't have too much. Still a bit of pride left. It's having nothing to do that's hard. These hands, see, oot bloody made for knitting."

There is even deeper bitterness in the home of Berwyn Howell, a tough 61-year-old who, as Lodge secretary of the NUM, held the miners together during the strike (Garw is proud of the fact that it had only one rebel against the cause — and he was English). "Sure there's been daft things happening in Garw," he says. "Some smart salesman sold a whole lot of brand new Metro cars in oot street, people was running around trying to find whose cars was which. But you have to expect daft things when you do a thing like this to a community — people's minds are in a turmoil."

"The meo of Garw didn't sell their jobs, they were bribed and blackmail into it. The way it works, if they had kept their pit oot after January 1 this year, all the months they were on strike would have counted in calculating their

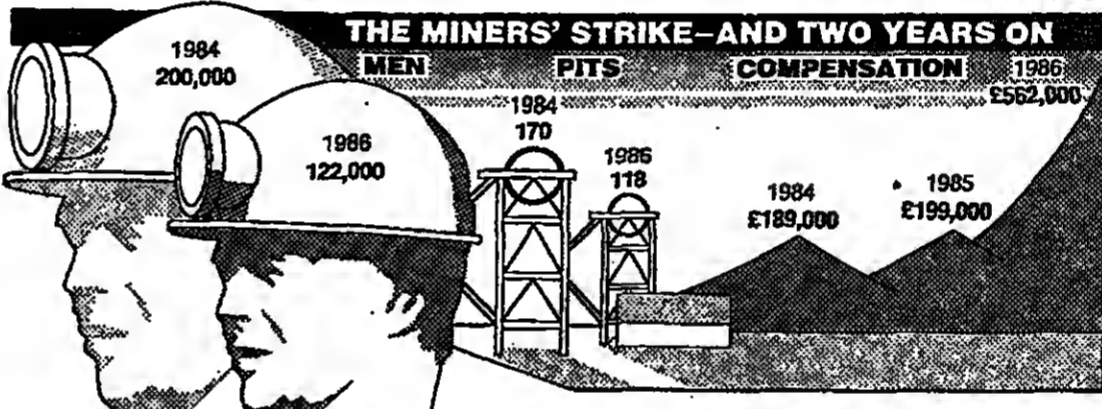
ist than Maggie. They have forgotten how other people pitched in and helped them in the strike. They are so wrapped up in interest rates, percentages, finding out where they can drive to in their cars to buy at a discount, they have forgotten the shopkeepers up here who helped feed their kids oot credit. There's mooney awash up here, but it's oot all lovely, boyo."

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Church services and snowflakes evoke Christmas — but how real is the image?

A mass of detail

Tonight under the blaze of 49 lights imported by BBC Television, Clifton Cathedral in Bristol will ring to many and varied sounds — of an organ, of readings from Isaiah, Titus and Luke, of prayers. All under the eyes of four cameras, red-eyed and all-seeing. Nearly a year of preparation will be reaching a climax. And the viewing figures? Zero.

But fear not for a waste of the licence money. Tonight is merely a rehearsal for what will, tomorrow night, attract the year's biggest television audience for a religious event — between three and four million people tuned in to midnight mass.

It will have a special significance — or rather a small, separate significance — for the Rt Rev Monsignor Crispian Hollis, effectively the Bishop of Clifton's deputy, for tomorrow night a wheel turns full circle: between 1977 and 1981, Hollis was Roman Catholic assistant to the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC and

The midnight mass on television will be a spectacle planned for nearly a year

says, "and that is how it must be. We are not required to shape the service for television and at Clifton we have the great good fortune of size, which means there is no television-imposed restriction on numbers."

But television has to be accommodated, in the physical and other senses. The only light shining tomorrow night not to have been installed by the BBC will be that over the crib; the front row of seats has been moved back three feet so that a camera can track in to cover communion; the number of seats has been carefully worked out in advance (it is 1,108); and one aisle is blocked off by a camera gantry.

The congregation will have to be in *in situ* by 10.30pm, an hour before the transmission, so that the BBC engineers can balance the sound from four microphones placed overhead and to give time for "the warm up".

Hollis says: "It is no longer such a novel thing to be on television, but it's important that the congregation has time to relax, to treat the cameras as if they weren't there — it's terrible if you get people following the cameras with their eyes, for example."

Not everything will be quite what it seems. Hollis, for example, an accomplished public speaker, is at this moment putting the finishing touches to that dreaded thing — a script.

"I usually just have a few notes for the homily", he says, "and it's hard to sit down and write for the eye what must be heard by the ear, but of course the television people have to know exactly where we are at a given time. As for the content, I don't feel there are any constraints. But there is one golden rule when you are speaking both to the parish and the national audience — no in-jokes."

Peter Barnard



Just a snowball's chance

White Christmases are few and far between. In the past 50 years the London area can boast of only three occasions which can be regarded as matching the traditional image. In 1981 the remnants of an earlier snowstorm hung on until Christmas Day, while in 1957 a brief cold spell led to snow over the holidays. But the only time the snow lay several days before Christmas and lasted right through Boxing Day was in 1938.

If we relax the requirements, then we find that snow on Boxing Day is more common, particularly during the past 25 years. Even so, this falls well short of what we have been brought up to expect, which raises the question as to whether the whole image of a snowy December 25 is a fabrication.

But what is a white Christmas? To Ladbrooke's, for example, the sole criterion is snow falling on the London weather centre roof at midday on December 25. This is why they escaped by the skin of their teeth in 1981, when much of the country was still under a blanket of snow. But to most of us the simplest measure is snow on Christmas morning.

What are the odds on our having a real Dickensian Christmas, 1986?

From available meteorological records the incidence of snow over Christmas in London has declined. In the late 18th century the proportion of snowy Christmases was a respectable two out of five. In the first 60 years of this century it was well under one in 10, but the proportion has risen a bit since 1980.

The memory of the coldest conditions of the 16th to 19th centuries is encapsulated in art and literature. Nowhere is this more true than in the work of Charles Dickens, which has played such a part in establishing the traditional view of the festive season.

In Dickens's first novel, *Pickwick Papers*, there is "a good homan Christmas chapter" at Dingley Dell. This and the subsequent chapter — a tale of the supernatural featuring the sexton Gabriel Grubb, the forerunner of Scrooge — are set against a background of snow and ice.

The fact that the publication of these chapters — late in December 1836, as part of a serial — coincided with one of the greatest snowstorms of the 19th century probably reinforced the image with both the writer and his readership. With the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in December 1843, the die was cast.

While the memories of the Frost Fairs on the Thames and the Dutch and Flemish winter landscapes have helped to reinforce the popular image, it was the Dickensian model that did most to establish the modern view of Christmas.

The more frequent cold spells of the last 10 winters could be a sign that we will be having more white Christmases. But this is hard to reconcile with the growing evidence that the global climate is warming. So for the moment the safest assumption is that it is simply a product of the natural variability of our climate.

W.J. Burroughs

Weather note: The outlook is for milder, cloudy weather. Perhaps preceded by sleet or snow. Details, page 16

The hi-tech brain train

Getting there is irrelevant at one Swedish company, whose workforce thinks en route

If a novel idea thought up by the Swedes finds an echo here, British Rail can stop worrying quite so much about getting there. The train standing so frustratingly 300 yards short of platform five could be full of computing commuters too busy with the work to worry about the wait. For high-speed read hi-tech.

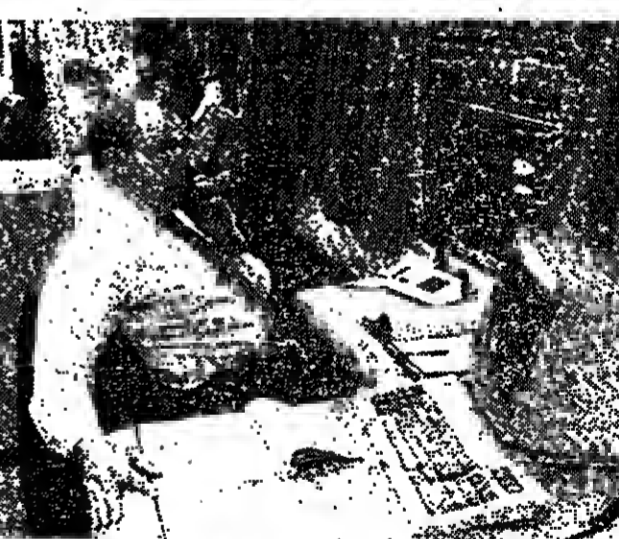
These days, the minute they step aboard in Stockholm, a select few Swedish commuters — who work for ASEA, the nuclear and electrical multinational based at Västerås, 110 kilometres from the capital — start work at push desks in front of computer terminals. The train, adapted at a cost of £400,000, is equipped with desks, ergonomically-designed furniture, computers, and dial-anywhere telephones.

At one desk sits Dusan Babula, a 49-year-old nuclear physicist. He is working on a system that aims to make nuclear reactors "ultimately safe". Sheets of paper dotted with complex equations litter his desk.

"I moved to Stockholm from Västerås in 1972", he says. "My wife works there. Before I travelled sometimes by car, sometimes by train. It was a total of two hours, 40 minutes wasted each day. Sometimes I would even have to stay at Västerås all week."

He says the train is "perfect for me. I have almost everything I need here. I shouldn't be a bit surprised to see the idea catch on in other countries. Why not in Britain for example, where you have so many commuters? I'm certainly very satisfied with it."

It was Ann Larsson, a 34-year-old member of ASEA's business development and corporate planning section — and herself a Stockholm-Västerås commuter — who dreamt up the mobile office. "It was just a joke at first, then we thought, 'Why not?' It seemed crazy but it made sense," she says. ASEA jumped at the idea —



On-line: Dan Tannenbergh of ASEA makes his connection

given that the company makes locomotives and rolling stock, it was good PR, apart from the practical benefits.

Birgitta Benthede, 38, who works as a consultant to ASEA, finds the train has done wonders for her family life. She hates commuting so much that she previously spent most of the week in a company flat in Västerås, leaving her husband Morgan, 40, to look after their two children back home in Stockholm. "He's extremely happy about this development," she says.

Christopher Mosey

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1138

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a small illustration of a train.

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Finding the guilty party

Gold and glitter is the combination for Christmas parties, but be subtle and avoid the strident

Gold is the colour and glitter is the message for party dressing. Cosmetics and clothes both have a built-in sparkle...

For party hair there are flat satin clip bows, chic in black and gold striped satin (£7.50). Round the waist of a black dress go gilded leather gloves (£24.95)...

A striking animal print in lurex on chiffon brings two fashion trends together in a tunic top (£29.99) from Miss Selfridge. This store's girly party clothes include a black tulle fish-tail dress with gold panels...

Estée Lauder sets the trend for sparkling cosmetics with her Quicksilver Colours that include silver eye definers, translucent face powder and a Startit Silver nail lacquer.



Matching Zandra

Holding court at the Grosvenor House Hotel last week was Zandra Rhodes, her shocking pink hair almost colour matched to the lobster soufflé. A week of fashion shows and festivities peaked on Friday under a Christmas tree elegantly decorated with white doves.



Under the spreading tree: Zandra Rhodes in shocking pink

Benetton's Russian drive

The latest fashion company to embrace the big Bear is Benetton, who are hoping to take their colourful knits and ever-expanding empire to the Soviet Union early next year.

Model editor?

Just as fashion doyenne Grace Coddington, winner of a 1960s Vogue model contest, leaves the Bible of Style to work for Calvin Klein in New York, I hear news of a model new recruit, Catherine Dyer (right), rangy wife of super-snapper David Bailey, is to give up her career in front of the camera to train as a Fashion Editor on Vogue.



Catherine, the subject of a profile of her life and times with thrice-married Bailey in January's Vogue, is now 25 - a ripe old age for a model, however classically beautiful. But Catherine still reveals a good deal of herself in a transparent

Putting on the glitz. Make yourself the Christmas look with net, brocade and tulle, modelled on a David Fielden tulle. Net in black, white and 18 vibrant colours, 65p a metre from John Lewis, Oxford Street and group stores. Two metres gathered on to elastic for each skirt layer. Bustier from a triangular one metre length of 140 cm fabric, tied at the back waist. Glitter brocades from £12.95 to £45, sequined silk £98 a metre, all at Liberty, Regent Street W 1. David Fielden at 132 Kings Road SW3. Bruce Oldfield seamed stockings £2.98, elbow length

satin gloves by Cornelia James £11.99 both from major department stores. Glitter basket of flowers earrings and crystal bracelet from Monty Don 58 Beauchamp Place SW3. Hair by Debbie Horgan for Daniel Galvin's colour Salon, using one metre tulle. Make-up by B.J. Gillian for Faces. Styled by Peta Hunt. Photograph by TONY MCGEE

Yule legs wrapped up in holly

Forget fishnet and seams; holiday stocking are sporting leaves, lacy roses and gold peacocks

The holly and the ivy, sequins and stars are all playing supporting roles in this year's fashion pantomime. Festively patterned legs are dressed up in tights and stockings that put seams and fishnets in the shade. A discreet holly leaf adorns one leg of Zandra Rhodes' sheer black tights and Kunert go for glitz with an ornate swirling gold peacock.

Adorning Bruce Oldfield's hosiery design for the festive season is a discreet sparkling butterfly just above the right knee. Tiers, ruffles, puffs and pleats all appear on dresses and skirts that end just below or above the knee leaving plenty of scope for the subtlest motif at the ankle or Christmas trees on legs.



Abstract black faces drawn on white tights, £3.25 designed by The Cloth for Aristoc; from Farwick's, New Bond Street, W1 and leading stores. Sheer black stockings with a rash of odd sized spots and circles, £18 by Pierre Montoux from Browns, 27 South Molton Street, W1. Ornaments golden peacock woven into sheer black tights, £12.95 by Kunert from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Delicate black and white floral patterned tights, £4.99 by Mary Quant from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 and leading stores. Left: festive socks - red and black patterned with Father Christmas and reindeer and Christmas crackers, both £4.99, branches of the Sock Shop.

Illustrations by JOYCE McDONALD Photograph by CHRIS DAWES

COUNTRY CASUALS SALE. A WINTER OUTFIT FROM £58. For example this jacket £79 now at half price £39. This skirt £39 now at half price £19. SALE STARTS SATURDAY DEC 27th. At your local Country Casuals Shop See local Newspapers for Shop-in-Shop Sale Dates

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS: BETHELL - On Sunday December 21st 1986, The Honourable Mrs Richard Bethell...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: MARRIAGE: BRADSHAW BRADSHAW... NEW YEARS EVE GALA... SERVICES: BRADSHAW BRADSHAW...

FOR SALE: YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS... WEDDING SUITS... BARGAINS FROM £30... FLATSHARE...

RENTALS: Keith Cardale Groves THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS... OVERSEAS TRAVEL: DISCOUNT FARES... THE STAFF AT SKYLOD TRAVEL... UP UP & AWAY... QUEENSGATE, SW7 - £600 p.w.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: LOWEST FARES... DISCOUNT FLIGHTS... LONDON FLIGHT CENTRE... WINTER SPORTS: SKI WEST - NOW offering superb Christmas...

LEGAL NOTICES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 85B of the Companies Act, 1985... TALLMARK LIMITED... VERBER MERIBEL SAN VIGILIO CRANS MONTANA VAL D'ISERE

WINTER SPORTS: SKI WEST - NOW offering superb Christmas... VERBER MERIBEL SAN VIGILIO CRANS MONTANA VAL D'ISERE... SELF CATERING FROM £99... SKI SUPERTRAVEL

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES: SACHER GOLDMAN, On Monday December 22nd, 1946 at Carlton Hall... GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES: MACAULAY - Mac and Peg married on 23/12/56... DEATHS: BARRETT - On December 20th 1986, peacefully, Anne Mainwaring...

Cancer Together we can beat it. We found over one third of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK. Help us by sending a donation to Cancer Research Campaign.

British Heart Foundation The heart research charity. 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

RENTALS: YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS... WEDDING SUITS... BARGAINS FROM £30... FLATSHARE...

RENTALS: YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS... WEDDING SUITS... BARGAINS FROM £30... FLATSHARE...

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ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS: BARBICAN HALL 628 8755/638 8991... OPERA & BALLET: COLISEUM 5 836 5161 cc 240 8298... THEATRES: ABELINE 856 7811 or 240 7913... ME AND MY GIRL: A Musical Play for children...

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1986

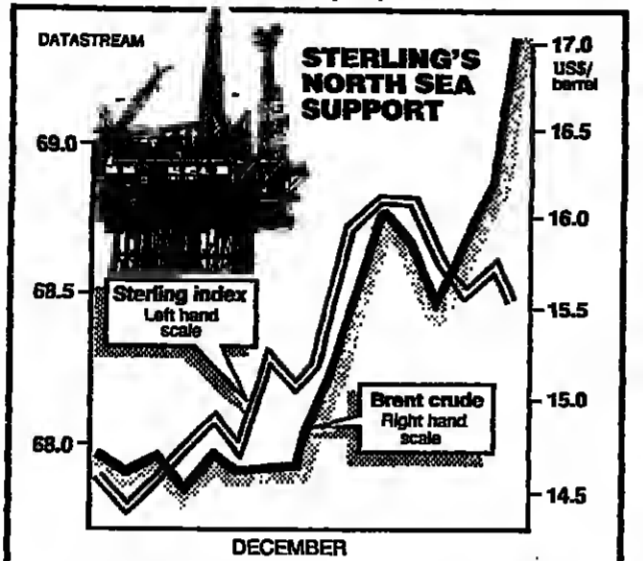
Brent touches \$18 a barrel
Crude oil price starts to climb

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The world oil price started its expected upward climb yesterday in the wake of the agreement by Opec to limit output and set a fixed price of \$18 for its oil.

they built up while prices were low. In addition most Western governments used the excuse of cheaper crude oil to raise the excise duty on oil products and will be reluctant to pass on any price rises which could be seen as inflationary.

all of the leading oil companies have been waiting for an increase in Opec prices to put up prices. But the size of stocks held by the companies and by governments means that price rises should be delayed.



Price increases at the petrol pumps are inevitable - almost all of the leading oil companies have been waiting for an increase in Opec prices to put up prices.

US on course for 3% growth, says OECD

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

United States growth should shortly accelerate to about 3 per cent a year and stay at that level for the next 18 months, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development says in its annual report on the country's prospects.

The report examines the impact of the major influences on the US economy both this year and next. On the assumption of oil prices at \$15 a barrel, lower oil prices will provide a boost equivalent to 0.4 per cent of gross national product next year, after a 0.3 per cent boost next year.

Inflation in the US is not expected to show any significant increase. The forecast is for a 3.2 per cent rise in the gross national product deflator in the first half of 1988, over the corresponding period of next year, little changed from the present 3.1 per cent rate of increase.

The effects of the lower dollar are mixed, improved trade performance partly offset by inflationary pressures. The net effect is a 0.4 per cent GNP boost next year, after a 0.1 per cent contractionary influence this year.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET table with columns for FT 30 Share, FT-SE 100, Bargains, USM (Datastream), THE POUND, US Dollar, W German mark, and Trade-weighted.

Yule Catto fleshes out £17m bid

Yule Catto, the industrial chemicals, specialist building products and plantations business, yesterday published its offer document for Barrow Hepburn the industrial holding company which is chaired by Professor Roland Smith.

Firth fillip

Interim pretax profits of G M Firth (Holdings) in the half year to September 30 leapt by 34 per cent to £1.4 million net turnover up 19 per cent to £23 million.

Profits slump

Interim pretax profits at Danimion International slumped 8 per cent to £4.6 million net turnover up 55 per cent to £39 million for the six months to September 30. The net dividend of 2.5p was unchanged.

£4m buyout

Guidehouse, the capital raising group, has financed a £4.1 million management buy-out of James Crosby, a leading housebuilder in the North-west. Midland Bank is providing debt finance of about £3.1 million.

Business chief

Dr Theophilus de Azeredo Santos of Brazil has been elected president of the International Chamber of Commerce for next year and 1988. Mr Peter Wallenberg of Sweden is vice-president.

Stake sale

Cadbury Schweppes Australia is selling its 40 per cent shareholding in Oasis Industries in New Zealand to ID Nathan for NZ\$26 million (£9.3 million).

£55m bid

Panfida Capital, a subsidiary of the Sydney-based investment group Panfida Ltd, has made a £55 million bid for "Investing in Success" Equities, the British investment trust.

Offer talks

Standard Securities, the property company, is in talks which could lead to an expansion of its capital resources and an offer for the company.

Wall Street 18 Times 19, Co News 18 Comment 19, Commodities 18 Stock Market 19, Money News 18 USM Prices 20, Foreign Exch 18 Share Prices 21

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for New York, Dow Jones, Tokyo, Nikkei Dow, Hang Seng, Amsterdam: Gen, Sydney: AG, Frankfurt: Commerzbank, Brussels: General, Paris: CAC, Zurich: SKA Gen, London: FT. A, FT. Giltis.

INTEREST RATES

Table for London: Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, US: Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds.

CURRENCIES

Table for London, New York, £/\$, £/DM, £/SwF, £/FFr, £/Yen, £/Index, ECU.

Opec deal lifts market

The Opec agreement helped to produce higher share prices and a strong rally in government bonds. But the pound, surprisingly, showed little benefit from the prospect of \$18 a barrel oil prices.

When sterling rose yesterday morning, some traders were talking of a possible reduction in base rates next year. This, coupled with the buoyancy of the gilt-edged market, helped equities. The FT 30-share index rose by 14.0

points to close at 1,286.1. Sterling's rise was, however, short-lived, after rising to 68.9 at 9am, ended at 68.5, pulled down by sterling's fall against the mark.



Sir Isaac at the peak of his power in 1970

Sir Isaac made life president of GUS

By Teresa Poole

Sir Isaac Wolfson, the founder of Great Universal Stores, is to step down as joint chairman of the mail order, retail and finance group.

Three divisional managing directors have also been appointed to the board, formalizing for the first time the divisional structure of the company.

The new chairman will be Sir Isaac's son, Lord (Leonard) Wolfson, aged 59, who is joint chairman and managing director. The assistant managing directors, Mr Harold Bowman and Mr A Trevor Spittle, will become joint deputy chairmen.

Mr Richard Pugh is to be managing director of a catalogue and mail order division; Mr William Hender managing director of a financial services division; Mr Stanley Peacock managing director of the Buryberry division; and Mr Eric Barnes director of retailing and business information services. Mr Robert Barraclough, who is nearly 70, is to retire.

Hillsdown puts £8m into coal

By Cliff Feltham

Hillsdown Holdings, the acquisitive food and furniture group, hopes to strike a rich profit stream from its latest investment - in a coal mining group.

PCW delay expected

Lloyd's insurance market is unlikely to make an offer to settle the PCW affair before the end of next month at the earliest, according to a letter yesterday to names on PCW syndicates.

DTI to end inquiry this week

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced last Thursday the appointment of two outside inspectors to investigate allegations that privileged information on merger decisions was being leaked by officials of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table listing price changes for various commodities and stocks like Unilever, Associated News, Burtons, Storhouse, Woolworth, Shell, IG Gas, Exgal Group, Slebe, Peart Assurance, Morgan Grenfell, RTZ, Godwin Warren, Norblin Elect, Standard Secs, BP, Guinness, FH Tomkins, Burnside Inv.

GOLD

Table for London Fixing, AM 395.35 pm-394.15, close 398.50-394.00, New York, Comex 392.20-392.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Table for Brent (Jan.) pm \$17.10/bbl, DCU (Feb 83/84)

Rent-a-satellite service for UK companies Transatlantic round table

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Bruce Fireman, the investment banker, will next month launch a rent-a-satellite scheme for British public companies to put their case to an American investment analyst.

Transatlantic round table

For about £39,000 an hour Mr Fireman's European Financial Network will link British managers with American institutions, using a two-way television link.

Issue of 12,625,176 Ordinary Shares of 50p each.

to former Shareholders of Outwich Investment Trust plc under the terms of the reconstruction approved by Shareholders on 8th December, 1986.

STRATTON INVESTMENT TRUST plc (Registered in England no. 2067050)

Issue of 12,625,176 Ordinary Shares of 50p each.

to former Shareholders of Outwich Investment Trust plc under the terms of the reconstruction approved by Shareholders on 8th December, 1986.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the above Shares to be admitted to the Official List by way of introduction.

The Listing Particulars relating to the Ordinary Shares are available in the Exel Statistical Service and copies may be obtained, up to and including 29th December, 1986, from the Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, London EC2 and, up to and including 6th January, 1987, from:

Stratton Investment Trust plc 8 Bishopsgate London EC2N 4AE Cazenove & Co. 12 Tokenhouse Yard London EC2R 7AN

WALL STREET

Shares in early retreat

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares retreated slightly in early trading yesterday as the market took the opportunity to digest last Friday's broad advance and record volume.

Oil issues reacted positively to news of an Opec agreement on production cuts but the agreement fuelled inflation worries in the bond market.

The Dow Jones industrial

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices, including AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Fears of isolation from world economic community

Make friends with other nations, Japanese told

Japan is in danger of isolating itself from the rest of the world economic community, the Japanese foreign minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari said yesterday.

He added: "We must try to survive as a country that is indispensable to the rest of the world." "To that end we must continue to be modest, we must maintain humility and continue to exchange opinions with various countries around the world, listening to the opinions of everyone, even if some opinions seem minor to us."

Fund planned to help Third World

It is hoped that the World Bank would draw about \$375 million (£265 million) from Japanese institutions and \$37.5 million from the Japanese government in the first year, beginning next April.



Mr Kuranari: "We must listen to other opinions" such categorization over a period of at least three years.

United Nations Security Council. It is seeking to break out of its hierarchical attitude towards other countries which dictates a policy in which the Japanese foreign ministry responds on the basis of a country's status.

Japan needed 103 votes to qualify and collected 107. Mr Kuranari said: "This is something we should reflect on. However small a country is we must respond to that country and try to gain an understanding of Japan from the smallest of countries to try and keep them on our side, to keep them as our friends."

Lucas boosts industry in N Ireland

By Robert Rodwell

The manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland yesterday received its second boost in eight days from British industry.

Lucas Industries is to spend £4 million to expand its Lucas Stability Electronics factory at Antrim. The investment will create 200 new jobs and will mean a transfer of production work from the mainland. Half the vacancies will become available over the next 12 months.

The Antrim plant will make a new range of silicon chip-based components developed by the corporate Research and Development Centre in Birmingham. Initially there will be small-scale production of these components at its vehicle plant in Birmingham.

The news encourages cautious confidence that, at long last, the mncb need upswing for Northern Ireland's eroded manufacturing base is underway.

The silicon-chip production operation, the first for the Province, will make chip-based surge suppressors which protect sensitive electronic systems from lightning, nuclear radiation and static electricity.

Dr Kevin Hawkins, a Lucas Industries' spokesman, said: "The suppressors have their main applications in the telecommunications and avionics markets and do not fit naturally into the vehicle context. We decided, therefore, to transfer the work from Bir-



John McAllister: in talks with other companies

irmingham to Antrim. It is one of our industrial system group factories and is more closely attuned to the specialist market."

Mr Andrew Little, director and general manager of Stability Electronics, said the US, Germany and Italy were potential markets. He added that world demand was worth about £40 million a year. His plant would aim to capture 10 per cent.

Mr John McAllister, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board, said the board's "case workload" was at its highest level for some years. It was negotiating a number of projects with other electronics manufacturers. Mr Peter Viggers, junior minister for industry at the NID, was confident that 1987 would be a much brighter year economically for Northern Ireland than the past several years.

Marchant to buy PR firm

Holmes & Marchant, the sales promotion and graphic design company, is buying Biggs Communications, a public relations and advertising group, for a maximum £6 million.

BET buys £11m US scaffolding company

BET, the industrial services group, yesterday announced the \$16 million (£11 million) acquisition of Werner Enterprises, a private Georgia-based scaffolding company.

Bowater buys Staybrite

Bowater Industries, the paper, packaging and building group, is expanding its home improvements division with the acquisition of Staybrite Windows, of Coventry.

COMPANY NEWS

J W SPEAR & SONS: Turnover for the second half of 1986 failed to reach the level anticipated. For the year it will be marginally ahead of 1985. Since product development costs of promotional costs were geared to support the assumed higher turnover, the pretax profit for 1986 will be materially lower than in 1985. It is intended to maintain the dividend for 1986 at 6p.

HUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS: Clevens Investments has bought 2 million shares from Mr P Mcmaster (8.51 per cent).

WCS GROUP: The company has acquired Alan Pascoe Associates. The first payment will be £1.7 million of which £1 million will be cash and £700,000 will be met by the issue of 134,610 ordinary shares. A debenture will be issued to pay the last tranche up to a maximum of £5.75 million, depending on future profits.

READICUT INTERNATIONAL: Mr Paul Channon. The trade and industry secretary has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed acquisition of F Drake (Fibres).

BULMER & LUMB (HOLDINGS): The Allied Textile agreed offer document includes an estimate by the board of the consolidation of ordinary activities before tax of the Allied group of £7.5 million for the year to September 30, 1986. The offer document includes also the terms of an agreed offer for the 3.5 per cent Bulmer preference shares.

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS: The company is acquiring Gordon Enterprises of New York. The first payment is \$6.2 million (£4.33 cash). An additional sum of up to \$14.8 million is payable if specified income levels are achieved in each of the years to September 30, 1991.

BURNS-ANDERSON: The chairman has written to shareholders urging them to ignore the offer from Dudley.

SHEFFIELD BRICK: The listing of the shares, temporarily suspended on November 3, has been cancelled after shareholders' approval of the re-organization proposals. A rule

APPOINTMENTS

British Alcan Aluminium: Lord Peyton of Yeovil has been elected non-executive chairman. Mr David Morton joins the board.

TSB Scotland: Mr Eric Wilson will succeed Mr Ian H Macdonald as chief general manager on March 31. Mr Wilson will also become a director of TSB Group.

Waterford Glass Group: Mr Brian Patterson becomes group director of management and corporate development from April 1.

Samuel Montagu & Co: Mr Richard Gillingham, Mr John Neary, Mr Jeremy Prescott, Mr Tom Quinn, Mr John Rickards, Mr Mossman Ronche, Mr Jeffrey Urwin and Mr Arthur Wadsworth become executive directors.

Brown Shipley: Mr Robin Owens is to join Medens Trust as managing director.

Sale Director: Mr J B Buchanan, Mr J H Cahill and Mr R T D Stott have been appointed directors.

Charterhouse: Mr David Parish has joined the board as director of planning.

Connells Estate Agents: Mr David Wood has become finance director.

Bank of England: Sir Colin Ross becomes a director for four years on March 1.

Thorn EMI: Mr Andrew Marsh has been made business development director at Thorn EMI Business Communications.

Ocean Transport & Trading: Mr Nicholas Barber becomes chief executive on January 1. Mr Peter Marshall becomes non-executive chairman at the annual meeting in May.

BSS Group: Mr P Donovan and Mr A Milne are new executive directors.

Clarke Hooper: Mr Peter Nugent is a director from January 1. Mr Hans Thykier is now a director of the Foreign and Colonial Atlantic Fund and the Foreign and Colonial Oriental Fund.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various companies and funds, including equities and rights issues.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table showing London traded options for various stocks like Allied Lyons, British Gas, BP, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table showing traditional options for various stocks like Shell, ICI, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures for various commodities like Sterling, Gold, etc.

Broker who is badly missed

Christopher Dunn

BASE LENDING RATES advertisement listing various banks and their rates.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES advertisement listing sterling spot and forward rates.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD advertisement listing euro money deposits and bullion prices.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS advertisement listing various stock options.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table of unit trusts with columns for fund name, bid price, offer price, change, and yield. Includes sections for various asset classes like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

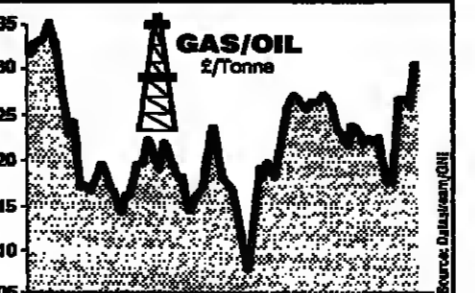
Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and other financial metrics.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust name, bid price, offer price, change, and yield.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, metals, and agricultural products.



Energy futures markets have reacted in a clearly bullish manner to last weekend's Opec agreement. Forecasts are that there will be a draw down in crude oil stocks of about two million barrels per day in the first quarter of 1987. Comment by GNL.

Table of commodity prices including sections for LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, COPPER GRADE A, and LONDON METAL FUTURES.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a large graphic and text for 'SUNBELT'.

كذا من الأصل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Confident start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end January 9. Contango day January 12. Settlement day January 19.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements...

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various companies like ASDA-MFI, Marks & Spencer, Bullough, etc.

Please take account of any minus signs. Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. For weekly dividend tracking.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: 1986 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield. Lists various funds like 103 80% Each, 104 80% Each, etc.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various funds like 105 80% Each, 106 80% Each, etc.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various funds like 107 80% Each, 108 80% Each, etc.

UNDATED

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various funds like 109 80% Each, 110 80% Each, etc.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various funds like 111 80% Each, 112 80% Each, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code or Year. Lists various banks like 113 80% Each, 114 80% Each, etc.

BREWERIES

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like Asahi Breweries, Beers, etc.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like Anglo American, Anglo Japanese, etc.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like Acland, Acland Industries, etc.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

DRAPEY AND STORES

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

FOODS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

INDUSTRIALS E-H

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

INDUSTRIALS I-L

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

LEISURE

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

MINING

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

OIL

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Div. Yield, Gross Yield, P/E. Lists companies like ABC, ABC, etc.

Portfolio Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £8,000. Claims required for +34 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

Large table containing various stock prices and financial data, organized into multiple columns and rows.

Ex dividend Ex all b Forecast dividend interim payment passed Price at suspension of dividend and field covered a special payment Pre-emptive Figures Forecast earnings Ex other Ex rights Ex scrip or share split Tax-free No significant data.

John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, assesses England's players and officials in his half-term report

Broad takes opportunity with both hands

A match batsmen couldn't fail in

By Michael Stevenson



Festive: Sri Lanka Prime Minister Anura Kumaratille, Sri Lankan cricket coach Chandana Silva, and Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayaraj

Sri Lanka despair as India make highest ever Test score

Kanpur (AFP) — Mohammad Azharuddin missed what would have been a first Test double century by one run as India made their highest total of 676 for seven... India's previous highest Test score was 644 for seven declared against the West Indies...

Scoreboard

Table showing Test match scores for Sri Lanka vs India, including batsmen like Kapil Dev and bowlers like Guruswamy.

Kent's concession to Dilley

Kent will leave no turf unturned in their attempt to hold on to their England fast bowler, Graham Dilley, aged 27, whose contract expires at the end of the year...

Hampshire's loss

Hampshire CCC lost £3,739 last season. The blame for the weather last summer and the need to improve fire precautions at their Southampton headquarters as the main reasons for the losses...

NORDIC SKIING

Excitement mounts as obvious winners fail. Nothing deters a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world...

Excitement mounts as obvious winners fail

Nothing deters a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world, the winners of the World Cup races at Davos showed that nothing is certain any longer...

Komora quits

Budapest (Reuters) — Imre Komora has resigned after only five months as manager of the Hungarian football team...

New manager

Mansfield Marksman Rugby League Club have appointed Jim Crellin the former coach at Blackpool Borough, Halifax and Swinton to replace Steve Dennison...

England's tour of Australia is past the turn. Eleven weeks have gone and there are eight to come. Nets tomorrow and another Test match starting on Boxing Day prelude a Christmas break...

Mike Gatting It was a pity about the "oversleeping" at Melbourne, an indication that he still has much to learn about the responsibilities inherent in the England captain's job...

John Embury His bowling in the Test victory in Brisbane was one of the highlights of the tour so far. And now that Australia's batsmen are becoming more familiar with his methods...

John Botham Encouraged, and allowed by the press, to keep a lower profile than in West Indies, he is having a correspondingly happier tour, though if, as he promises, he is to cod his touring days on a high note...

Neil Foster He has had to battle against the feeling that he is a supernumerary, and after taking 106 wickets in England last season he was relegated too soon to the "groundstaff" category...

Chris Broad He has taken with both hands the opportunity the tour gave him. Successive hundreds against Australia give him a proud place on the honours board...

Bill Athey After first innings scores in the first three Tests of 76, 96 and 55, and opening partnerships in the first and third of 223 and 112 with Broad...

Ian Botham Encouraged, and allowed by the press, to keep a lower profile than in West Indies, he is having a correspondingly happier tour...

Neil Foster He has had to battle against the feeling that he is a supernumerary, and after taking 106 wickets in England last season he was relegated too soon to the "groundstaff" category...

Chris Broad He has taken with both hands the opportunity the tour gave him. Successive hundreds against Australia give him a proud place on the honours board...

Phil Edmonds An occasionally supercilious air disguises a caring individual. His bowling has proved reliable (which could not always be said of it), if a little unimaginative...

David Gower More often than not, he seems only to be going through the motions. Yet in the second Test, at Perth, it was clear as soon as he came in that something within him had stirred...

Alan Lamb He must be getting worried that he has played 44 innings for England since last reaching three figures. Being the enthusiast he is, and the only cricketer ever to have made three hundreds against a four-pronged West Indian fast attack...

Jack Richards Just as French's tour has been a great disappointment to him, so must Richards's have left him in seventh heaven. His 133 at Perth contained many fine and robust strokes...

Mickey Stewart England's track-suited, gum-chewing coach-cum-cricketer manager never spares himself. While he gets on with the cricket, Peter Lush sees to the administration...

Van Zyl out of 'Test' series Johannesburg (Reuters) — Corrie van Zyl, South Africa's opening fast bowler, has withdrawn from the first unofficial "Test" against the rebel Australia cricketers...

Canberra offers testing time for Botham England take on the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra today in a one-day game which has suddenly assumed great importance...

John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, assesses England's players and officials in his half-term report

ENGLAND TOUR AVERAGES

Table with columns for batting and bowling averages for various players like Botham, Foster, Broad, Embury, DeFreitas, Edmonds, Gower, Lamb, Whitaker, Athey, Botham, Embury, DeFreitas, Edmonds, Gower, Lamb, Whitaker, Athey, Lamb.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS FOR THE HOCKEY AND RUGBY LEAGUE CONNOISSEUR The game that is no longer a tangled web

More to Wigan than the pier. Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook 1986-87, which has again been edited down to a minimalist decal by Raymond Fletcher and David Howes...

Excitement mounts as obvious winners fail. Nothing deters a sport more than an obvious result, all the time. To the relief of the cross-country skiing world...

Revert events in Australia have confirmed the old cricketing adage that the pitch can be more important than the players. There have been few better examples than those from the match between Cambridge University and the powerful West Indians in 1950.

The game was historic, not only for the total aimlessness and frustration, as seven wickets fell in the three unbroken days, while 1,324 runs were scored; but informed rumour had it that the pitch was the best, probably which led to instructions being issued to groundsmen that wickets must be prepared to give more help to the bowlers.

Weeks: primitive ferocity. One of the most remarkable things about their blistering scoring rate was that after a time both Weeks and Worrell steadily refused to run between wickets.

After a time, the honour of the institution became paramount and we arranged that, as each bowler's figures passed the dreaded century, the scorer would wave his red handkerchief and the official launch in a queue of would-be warmly applauded by his colleagues.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Salvo of Christmas rockets from Santa Alf

Alf Garnett fans get an unexpected bonus tonight in the shape of a special Christmas edition of In Sickness and in Health (BBC1, 9.30pm)...

petition which, as I have said before, has me on the ropes as much as the competitors. Music highlights on radio: Julian Budden's comparison of many singers' performances of Verdi's Otello in Interpretations on Record (Radio 3, 5.00pm)...



Krypton Factor finalists: Kenneth Tait, John Miers, David Kemp, Peter Gardiner. In centre: Virginia Leng, 1985 celebrity special winner (ITV, 7.00pm)

Peter Davalle

Table with columns for BBC1, BBC2, ITV/LONDON, CHANNEL 4, and VARIATIONS. Each column lists TV and radio programs with their respective times and descriptions.



Marion Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra, Vivian Blaine: Guys and Dolls (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

Des O'Connor, Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones in a special Christmas edition of Des O'Connor Tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)



Victoria Wood: C4, 11.15pm

Advertisement for Teacher's Highland Cream Scotch Whisky, featuring a bottle and a glass of whisky with the slogan 'A WELCOME AWAITING'.

Radio listings for Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 3, and Radio 4, including program names and times.

Advertisement for Richard Griffiths' play 'Two Pianos and a Passion', featuring a portrait of the actor and details about the production.

